

Ray of Hope

01708 377795

Christian Hope
International
Christian Worldwide Aid

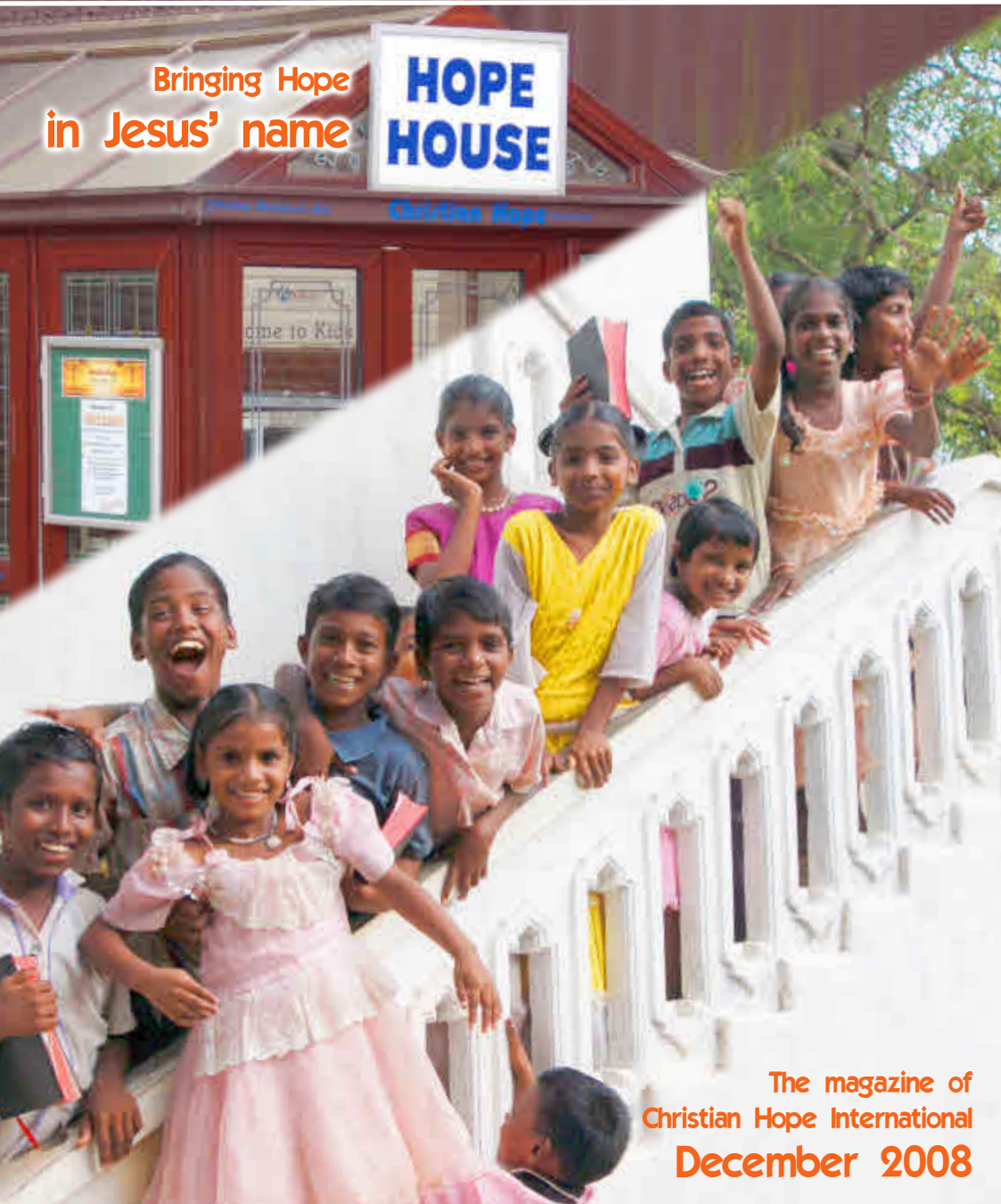
www.christianhope.org.uk

Stitches of Hope

Bringing Hope
in Jesus' name

**HOPE
HOUSE**

Christian Hope



The magazine of
Christian Hope International
December 2008

A brief history of

The Beginning...

April 1994

Rwandan war turns to genocide
Thousands flee homes to ill-equipped Camps in neighbouring countries



October 1994

First Container of aid sent to the Goma refugee camp in Zaire



1995

Aid centre established in Hall Lane Chapel
4th humanitarian aid container sent to Rwanda



1997

14th container sent in less than 4 years!
CHI becomes a registered charity. Ray of Hope (child sponsorship) launched.



Statistics of Hope



- ❖ Sent out almost 70 x 20Ft. containers with over 1,000 tons of aid to 15 countries
- ❖ Sponsored over 200 children in Africa and now over 20 in India
- ❖ Refurbished, repaired or helped build schools in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and India.
- ❖ Bought, equipped and delivered 4 ambulances & mobile clinics to areas of need
- ❖ Premises bought and refurbished for 2 orphanages in India
- ❖ Built 2 homes for the blind in India
- ❖ Built homes for child-led families in Rwanda
- ❖ Provided goats, chickens and farm equipment to needy families.
- ❖ Sent thousands of knitted clothes and blankets to Africa and Eastern Europe
- ❖ Supported education initiatives in South Africa, Uganda and Rwanda.
- ❖ Seeds of Hope project in Byumba.

1999

First CHI magazine.
CHI buys collection van. Ambulance sent to Kosovo.



2001

CHI relocates from from shed at the end of Vic & Jan's garden to Baptist Church.
Mobile clinic sent to India.
Archbishop Kolini (Rwanda) becomes International President of CHI.



Recent magazine covers



HOPE

2009

Hope House Burundi Project to refurbish orphanage for 60 Children
 Additional child sponsorship in Africa & India.
 Malaria prevention in Uganda
 Possible farm land for Indian orphanage support
 Hoping to follow where God leads us.....

Purchase and equipping of new Indian orphanages at Coimbatore & Chennai.

2007

Vic and Jan attend opening of Indian orphanages, Homes for blind dedicated.

2008



2005

Tsunami appeal.
 Indian Thirupuror orphanage opens. Move to current premises "Hope House".
 Collection van finally dies.



David Stringer becomes new CHI Director as Vic Bull retires.



2008

2003

Move to new premises on Elms Industrial Estate.
 Grand opening by Archbishop of Rwanda.
 Ray of Hope web site established



2004



Homes for child-led families in Rwanda.
 Ambulance to Shogwe (Rwanda)
 Containers of Hope becomes CHI



nearly 70 containers sent

2002

Fact-finding visit to South Africa.
 Mozambique chicken project and child sponsorship created. Project vehicle delivered to Diocese of Kigali, Rwanda.



If you DON'T want to walk on water.....

.... you'd best stay in the boat" – and don't read the Bible using challenging study aids like John Ortberg's "If you want to walk on water - you have to get out of the boat". My home Church recommended John's book in Spring 2007 and as I studied the Bible using it I was challenged by John's clear thinking on why Christians **do not** take risks for God.

Fear of failure, loss of face, financial uncertainties, damage to career, leaving the comfort zone, etc. For me at least the study was not academic, as I had just been asked to consider taking over Christian Hope International from Vic. Moving from a secure job (and salary) as administrator with a large Anglican Church to CHI was a risky financial venture even before the crash of Autumn

2008. I had lots of reasons to say "No" – but John Ortberg had already covered all of them in his book – and they did look rather feeble compared to the challenge of serving God. So, accepting the challenge, I ignored the risks and considered the question on its merits "is it right to go or to stay?"

So now I am heading up CHI. As Director of Operations, (the classiest name ever for "chief cook and bottle-washer") I have a small part-time staff, a handful of com-

mitted Trustees and very large support team (you...). In my day to day routine I am responsible for sending container aid to Africa, supporting 240 Ray of Hope children through school and financing small projects in Africa and India. And yes, the financial future is less secure but "if you want to walk on water...." you need to take risks for God!



Current financial Climate.

At CHI we are realists. We live in the same world as everybody else. Unfortu-

nately, even though believers in Africa and India do not have pensions and savings to lose if the banks go down, they are still invariably among those who suffer most in any recession. History shows that charitable giving is often amongst the first budgets to be cut. It would be honouring to God if

Christians were to buck this trend. It might be a question of taking a risk - but then we do have a very great God!

They say confession...

... Is good for the soul. Here's mine. Over the past three months we have received hundreds of packages of knitted goods clothes and blankets. Thank you for these. However, there have been one or two where I misplaced the paperwork.....

Now we cannot say "thank you" for all your excellent work.

If you have dropped off packages and received no reply, do contact me and let me know so I can personally send you a letter of thanks (and an apology).

A reminder..

A reminder to those who sponsor children that cards, gifts and letters for Christmas need to be received at the office by 27th November at the latest to ensure that your child will receive them in time.

Ray of Hope:

We now have 239 children who are sponsored through the Ray of Hope project at 9 different locations in Africa and India. A real opportunity for folk to make an active contribution to needy individuals in the developing world.

For just 50p a day you CAN make a real difference to the life of a child living in poverty. Please see the website for more details or phone the office.

Stitches update:

You will be pleased to hear that Dorothy Bowen (formerly assisted Jan) and Pat Cobie have taken over the Stitches of Hope Project. Pat has been involved with this work before and we welcome her back as a volunteer.

Congratulations: never too young....

Hannah Wright, aged 10, has become our youngest ever Church Representative. She is the new representative for St Mary Magdalene Church, North Ockendon, Essex. In her own words she is 'ecstatic' and so are we! She is a fantastic fund raiser and supporter.

Congratulations: never too old....

Josephine recently celebrated her 90th Birthday and requested that, instead of friends and relatives buying her gifts, they should make a donation to CHI. That's exactly what they did and they were generous. Obviously you can never be too old or too young to start something new!

Perhaps you could do something like that? Have a look at the Christmas Shop for things friends and relatives could buy for you but would go to help someone in Africa or India. Or do you have ideas on how to raise funds in other ways?

Paul
(Paul Guyver)

New CHI Websites

Over the next few months, a team of volunteers will be working day and night to revamp our three web sites;

<http://www.christianhope.org.uk>

<http://www.rayofhope.org.uk>

<http://www.hopecharityshop.org>

We would love to have all three open for business before Christmas, but as this is a complete re-write it may not be possible.

However, even if the new sites are not open, you can still order goats, seeds, malaria prevention and treatment kits, children's parties, etc. from the Hope Charity Shop (<http://www.hopecharityshop.org>) Why not take a look? I am sure there is something there for your friends and family.



Building on Vic and Jan's legacy

In 1994, as secretary of my church's caring and sharing fund, I was discussing with our Mid Africa Ministry contact the evacuation of staff and subsequent ransacking of our supported hospital at Gahini right at the start of the Rwanda genocide. The one ray of light was his news about some exciting work being organised at St Peter's Harold Wood by Vic and Jan Bull, who were sending supplies out to Rwanda by container.

That was 14 years ago. Since then things have moved on in Rwanda and Vic developed the work into a growing charity with a wider remit. With Jan and loyal volunteers and supporters in the UK, he developed Baby Aid (Stitches of Hope) and child sponsorship (Ray of Hope), and more recently the provision of resources for orphanages and help for widows and orphans in Africa and India.

Although the nature of the specific problems that need to be addressed has changed, many of the underlying issues remain. Furthermore, a key feature of the CHI's work is still that of empowering local Christians to provide help and support to their local communities. CHI is small enough to retain a personal touch to the work. This is true caring and sharing, following the example of the early Christian Church, and brings together to

a greater or less extent, people in Britain and in some of the poorest parts of Africa and India. Vic and Jan's important legacy is

the combination of the people that have been helped over the past 14 years, and the potential for the future, building on the foundations that they have laid.

"...empowering local Christians to provide help and support to their local communities."

The other trustees join with me in thanking Vic and Jan for this legacy, which was based on sacrificial offering of their time, energies and love especially for the disadvantaged children in the developing world. They did not wish to have a farewell meeting with CHI supporters, but I am sure all of them send their very best wishes to Vic and Jan for a relaxing holiday starting in November and wherever they may be led in the future.

Keith Root
Chairman of Trustees



Keith Root
(Chairman)

Tony Harvey
(Treasurer)

Dorothy Bowen

Steve Fraser

Guy Negus

If you are unsure what to buy that special person for Christmas, or you would like to encourage family and friends to give a special gift to help those in need, why not take a look again at our CHI on-line Charity Shop?

www.hopecharityshop.org

It's full of ideas for you to send to your family and friends.

It also has some "print-your-own" copies of the card below. This card (do cut it out and make use of it) is designed for YOU to send to family or friends asking them to purchase a gift on your behalf from the CHI shop. When they purchase a gift we will send the money off to Africa or India and send you an attractive card to let you know about the gift made on your behalf.

If you are not a web "surfer", but want to order for family and friends, there is an order form overleaf you can fill in and return to us. We will then send an attractive Christmas card on your behalf to your friend or family member clearly explaining that we have sent a gift on their behalf to a needy person overseas.



Christian Hope shop

ORDER FORM

Simply tick the boxes below, fill in the names & addresses and return this page with your payment. We will send the recipient of your gift an attractive card explaining what has been done on their behalf. Let us know the date it should arrive and why it is being sent (Birthday, Christmas, Wedding, etc.)

- £5** Pens, pencils, etc. for children in Africa or India
- £5** Malaria medication for 1 child
- £10** Mosquito net (see article opposite)
- £10** Children's Bible (Rwanda)
- £10** Adults Bible (Rwanda)
- £10** Buy a box of seed for a Byumba family

- £15** A primary School uniform (Africa)
- £30** School refurbishment Kijjabwemi
- £35** Towards a party for orphans
- £50** Goat for a family (Africa)
- £60** Help us supply clean water in India
- £90** Buy a bicycle for a pastor (Africa)

sender

Your name:

Your address:

Amount £ _____

receiver

Their name:

Their address:

Reason for sending card:

Date to arrive:



£5 Pens, pencils, etc. for children in Africa and India

£5 Malaria treatment for one child (Africa)

£10 Mosquito net for one bed (Africa)

£10 Children's or adult bible (Rwanda)

£10 Buy a box of seed to help families in Byumba, Rwanda

£15 Primary School uniform

£20 To ship a container 30km towards Africa

£30 School refurbishment Kijjabwemi

£50 Buy a goat for milk & income for a family (Africa)

£60 Help provide clean drinking water (India)



ORDER orders can be posted, placed on-line at
YOUR www.hopecharityshop.org or phoned
GIFTS through to our office on : 01708 377795

Save a life this Christmas?

Facts & figures

Did you know that for as little as £5 you could actually save someone's life this Christmas? It sounds amazing but it is true! That small sum of money will buy malaria treatment for one person that could so very save the life of the sufferer.

The statistics of the mortality rate from Malaria are quite staggering. A report from the World Health Organisation gave the following estimates for 2006:

- 247 million cases of malaria
- 881,000 deaths
- 91% of deaths were in Africa
- 85% of deaths were children under 5

A report by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated that *'In Uganda it is estimated that 353 Ugandans die every day from malaria, mostly children and pregnant women'*.

**In the light of these facts
Christian Hope International
would like to do something
about this problem
but we need your help.**

Through our contacts in Uganda we know that we can provide treatment for malaria for a child or adult for around £5. Prevention is better than cure and we can also provide treated mosquito nets for £10. The treatment would be provided through Kimywayi Health Centre which is church founded and managed.



Reaching out to others

We hope to be able to replicate this in other countries such as Rwanda and Ghana through our well established projects there.

Can you help?

Apart from making a personal cash donation or using our Charity Shop to support the appeal there are other innovative ways you could get involved:

- Promote this appeal within your church or other group that you belong to and arrange a collection or even a fund-raising event to provide a number of treatments or nets
- Request friends or relatives to donate to this appeal instead of buying you a gift for Christmas, a birthday or other celebration.

Make a difference

This Christmas, we believe that everyone can make a real difference, with even a small donation through this Project. Please contact the office if you would like promotional material.

Save a life

● **Prevention**
Mosquito net £10

● **Treatment:**
Two Children = £10



An answer to prayer....

All good charities strive to ensure that they use as much as possible of their donated resources to help the recipient of their support. In particular, funds donated for a particular purpose are accounted for separately. Occasionally, however, the balance between project and general income is such that charities have problems in maintaining their essential infrastructure. In the case of CHI we only have one full-time and two part-time staff, but we require a warehouse to make best use of donated goods and particularly knitted garments. The few times in the past we have had financial problems on our general income, our prayers have been answered with our supporters coming to the rescue, hence enabling us to continue, strengthened by the experience.

We ran into a major imbalance of funding in the middle of this year, and our general fund became very precarious just as the overlap between Vic and David caused additional expenditure. However, immediately we made some of our supporters aware of our problem, help came in and this has enabled us to stabilize the situation and has given us the breathing space to develop our future programme of support, some of which is indicated

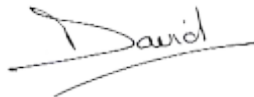
elsewhere in the magazine, and other projects that will be advertised later in the year. We are very thankful to the many people who contributed to our general fund at that time. Yet again God, and our faithful supporters did not let us down.

The current economic climate is going to make the work of all charities more difficult, but David and the trustees are confident that the resources will not be wanting while there is a job for CHI to do in supporting our fellow Christian communities deliver aid to their neighbours in some of the poorest countries of the world.

Dr. Keith Root (Chair of Trustees CHI)

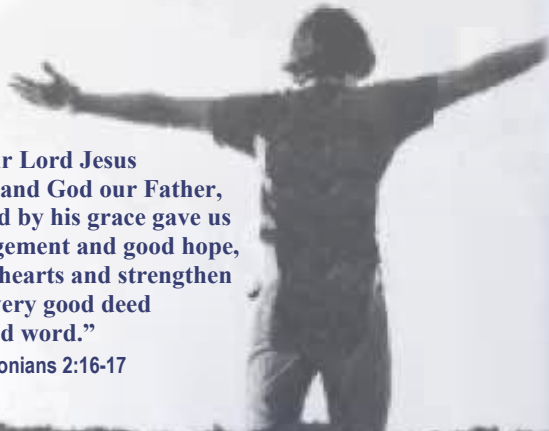
STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Thanks, in a large part, to the very generous response to our appeal for General Funds, we are now able to send the container destined for Bujumbura, Burundi. Many thanks to our supporters for making this possible.



**May our Lord Jesus
Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and by his grace gave us
eternal encouragement and good hope,
encourage your hearts and strengthen
you in every good deed
and word."**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17



Stitches of Hope

Jan Bull wrote at length in the last Hope Magazine about the value of the knitted goods that are so lovingly prepared for children in need overseas, whether Africa, India or Eastern Europe. Certain things have struck me over the past 6 weeks:

Firstly; the excellent quality of the knitted items. I cannot knit. Nor can I comprehend what is needed by way of skills to turn a ball of wool into a first class cardigan, bob hat, pullover, blanket, etc. But I can recognise quality. The items are lovingly made, often with beautiful buttons, and with bright colours and patterns. Any child would be proud to wear such clothes.

In each box

A typical box will contain:		
large blankets	x	45
or		
small blankets	x	55
or		
pullover / vests	x	250

One of our two packing teams preparing boxes



Secondly; I have been struck by the sheer quantity of the items. I asked one of our packing teams to count how many items went into a large cardboard box. The figures are shown in the small box.



Paul loading 50 boxes for orphanages in Eastern Europe

50 boxes to orphanages in Eastern Europe.

We recently sent 50 large boxes (shown in the above photos) to Holland for distribution by Mission Without Borders in Eastern

Europe. Another 50 boxes, (plus 5 boxes filled with soft toys) will be leaving CHI for distribution in two weeks time.

There is still lots of knitting coming in but be aware that if you intend to deliver it, you will need to phone at least the day before to make sure that the warehouse is open. As mentioned elsewhere in the magazine, the cost of dispatching these knitted garments has to be met through donations, so it would be very helpful if a contribution to these costs could accompany the delivery.

NEW HOPE CENTRE appeal - Burundi

Background

In 2004, in a refugee camp just outside Bujumbura, Burundi, many fathers and mothers were slaughtered by rebels coming over the border from the D. R. Congo. Sixty children were left defenceless, orphaned and with nowhere to live.

Pastor Rubens rescued the orphaned children and with a team of dedicated workers gave them a home where they were cared for and loved. These children had experienced a very dramatic change in their young lives. Their parents were dead, many killed in front of the children in a most horrific way. That memory will stay with them for the rest of their lives. As the children were in need of urgent care, a facility was found in a hurry that was not ideal, but was at least a place to keep the children safe, fed and clothed. Despite the work that has been done over the years to the facilities, it is in dire need of a complete overhaul

The needs

- furniture for housing block
- all facilities need renewing
- safe covered play area
- brighter rooms
- more space for children
- new study room
- Improved drainage to property
- perimeter wall repairs

Our project

Along with Christians from Canada, CHI would like to carry out the following works in the near future:

- Equip the refurbished second housing block consisting of bedrooms, sitting rooms and toilets
- Replace ageing cooking equipment in the kitchen.
- Purchase a freezer and supply furnishings and other equipment for the cafeteria shop
- Equip a sewing workshop.
- Convert the store room into a new study area.
- Repair perimeter fencing
- Improve land drainage
- Overhaul or replace the Centre's minibus.



Our involvement

Christian Hope International has been involved with the New Hope Centre, Bujumbura since 2006. Over the years we have improved facilities and helped refit and service the mini bus used by the home. At the New Hope Centre, believers are endeavouring to bring up the children in a Christian family environment with love and stability. This is clearly something we want to support as a mission - and we need your help to do so.

How can you help the New Hope Centre?

In order to carry out all the improvements, CHI needs to raise considerable funds - but the work can be done in stages and we would rather start as soon as sufficient funds are available to carry out at least some significant part of the improvements.

Donations

These can be made:

- ✓ by cheque payable to Christian Hope International (Burundi Appeal)
 - ✓ debit or credit card, (please telephone the office on 01708 377795)
 - ✓ on line at www.christianhope.org.uk
 - ✓ By standing order (please write or ring for a form)
- Regular monthly contributions over a period of time would allow us to plan for the future of this work.*

How can CHI help you?

In order to interest your house group and church, we would like to send you some materials on the Burundi Hope House project. We can send you some laminated photos, a PowerPoint on the ongoing work of Hope House and, if possible, pay a visit to your church.

Spread the word!

Even if you are not able to help financially, you can pray and inform others who may wish to contribute. If you send us a contact we can forward them leaflets and posters giving more information on the project.



CHI container arrives in Juba (Sudan)

During my first week with CHI, we received the photos below showing the container had finally arrived in the Sudan. It had taken 15 weeks from when it first left the CHI warehouse and cost approximately £6,000 to send.

So was it worth the cost? Here is an excerpt from the email from Cathy Groenendijk. Our contact in Sudan.

"In spite of their misery, the children were waiting for us at 3pm sharp. Helen read out the names we had prepared earlier. We told the children to stay calm for we had enough items to cover all the children. After 2 hours we had distributed over 100 teddies, blankets, children, clothes and pencils. It was unbelievable to see the transformation in the children's faces after the distribution. They were hugging their teddies and enjoying their clothes....."

Clearly it is worth the cost! Practically speaking though, because of the ever increasing cost, we no longer send aid in containers where a less expensive option exists.



COST -----
Aprox. £6,000
per container



Container for Burundi

The container for Bujumbura, Burundi is now completely packed and ready to go..... just as soon as we finish raising the additional £4,000 we need for the transport.

If you would like to assist in the cost of sending this container on its way, *or the next one*, please contact me on 01708 377795.



We have yet to decide on where the next one will go but while we are waiting we always require educational supplies such as paper and pencils and all the things that children would need to do their work at school plus toiletries and towels. *Keep collecting!*

None of the work of Christian Hope International is possible without YOU.

We would like to help you with your ongoing interest in Christian Hope International. Over the next few months we will be producing another short introduction video/DVD for you to show in house groups and church, a PowerPoint presentation (with leaders notes) and some printed materials and photos of our ongoing and new projects.

We will be sending these to our church representatives as soon as they are ready. If you would like some to show in your church or group, give us a ring. **01708 377795**



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Christian Hope International is a member of the Evangelical Alliance and Global Hand. We are signatories to the Red Cross Code of Conduct.

Hope Magazine

Hope Magazine is published 3 times a year and sent free of charge to supporters

The magazine is published in accordance with the CHI basis of faith, but articles contained may represent those of the author and not necessarily those of the charity.

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